

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants request that the specification as originally filed be replaced with the substitute specification being submitted herewith. The substitute specification reflects minor changes relative to the original specification that have been made in order to improve the readability of the application. Submitted herewith is a marked-up version of the substitute specification that shows the changes made relative to the original specification. No new matter has been introduced by the substitute specification.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-12 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 5, 6, and 12 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in original claims 2 and 4 and in the specification as originally filed, for example, on page 4. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments to the claims.

Original claim 4 is considered by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 2 has been rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 2 has been cancelled herein, rendering the rejection moot. Nevertheless, Applicants would like to note that general formula (1) in original claim 2 should have had the structure of general formula (1) as set forth on page 4 of the specification as originally filed.

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,519,085 (Ma et al.). Claims 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0670222. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have herein amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 4 (which has duly been cancelled herein). Thus, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art. All of the other pending claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are patentable at least for that reason.

Withdrawal of the § 102 rejections is therefore requested.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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